

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12 and 13 and cancel Claims 2, 4, 9 and 11. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently amended) A ~~microscope slide stainer~~ dispensing assembly, comprising:
 - a. a platform supporting a plurality of microscope slides, the platform having a plural heated surface areas, each heated by a an electric heater thereunder, ~~the~~ each heated surface area being adapted to be in contact with and underlying a microscope slide bearing a biological sample; ~~and~~
 - b. plural temperature sensors on the platform for sensing temperature of respective heated surface areas;
 - ~~b. c.~~ a liquid dispenser that dispenses liquid reagents onto the slide bearing the biological sample, said liquid dispenser being located above said platform, said liquid dispenser and platform being adapted for relative movement with respect to each other; and
 - d. a microprocessor adapted to be programmed with information on the location of the liquid reagents, the location of the slides, and a protocol to control heating of the slides and application of reagents to the slides.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) A ~~microscope slide stainer~~ dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heated surface area is adapted to supports only one slide.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) A ~~microscope slide stainer~~ dispensing assembly as claimed in claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein the platform comprises plural removable slide supports.

6. (Currently amended) A ~~microscope slide stainer~~ dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 1, ~~further comprising wherein the heater is~~ a resistive heating element ~~underlying the heated surface area.~~
7. (Currently amended) A ~~microscope slide stainer~~ dispensing assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a stationary liquid dispensing station, the platform being a moving platform adapted to index slides to the liquid dispensing station.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for processing biological samples mounted on microscope slides, comprising:
 - a. programming a microprocessor with information on location of liquid reagents, location of slides and a protocol for applying reagents to slides and heating slides;
 - a. b. placing a microscope slide having a biological sample on a ~~heated~~ surface area of a platform, the surface area being heated by a an electric heater thereunder and the platform being adapted to support a plurality of slides[[:]], the platform further comprising plural temperature sensors for sensing temperature of respective surface areas;
 - b:c. under microprocessor control, causing relative movement of a liquid dispenser and the platform with respect to each other so as to align the liquid dispenser over a microscope slide; ~~and~~
 - c: d. under microprocessor control, dispensing liquid reagent from the liquid dispenser onto the slide.; and
 - e. under microprocessor control, causing heating of the biological samples.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein ~~the~~ each heated surface area supports only one slide.
11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~11~~ 8 wherein plural removable slide supports are on the platform.
13. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the ~~heated surface area is heated by an underlying~~ heater is a resistive heating element.
14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the liquid dispenser is positioned at a stationary liquid dispensing station, the platform being moved to index slides to the liquid dispensing station.